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EDU 221

Essential Belief Statement

There is a very frequent question asked in society today. Why do you want to be a teacher? A statement along the lines of “teachers don’t get paid very much” usually follows this particular question. I can honestly say that this fails to change my mind from becoming a teacher. To me teaching is more than just a job and an income. Along with teaching comes guidance, progression, and for me coaching. There is no feeling I enjoy more than seeing student progress and be successful in all that they do, because of my teaching and coaching.

I have been brought up in a family full of teachers and educators. My father is a superintendent, my mother is a teacher, and now my sister is a teacher and I am studying to become a teacher. I want to be a teacher because I have seen the success it has provided in my family. Growing up I had no idea what I wanted to study in college. With a lot of thought I decided why not become and educator. By being a teacher I can fulfill one of my major goals in life. This goal is to make a difference in the lives of the people around me. Young teenagers today need guidance and a role model, because it seems like more and more often school is an escape from the outside hardships in life. By becoming a teacher, I will be able to have the feeling of self-gratification in the classroom and on the athletic fields knowing that I am constantly making a difference

My focus is in mathematics; with today’s economy it is often difficult to find many job opportunities, but there still is a demand is in the math and science professions. As a student I always excelled in math, it came natural to me and I found myself often helping my peers with their understanding. When praised by my teacher for helping further clarify material to my friend, I knew right then that I wanted to teach math. A high school math teacher; to most this would sound frightening, but to me it sounds like a wonderful career. I chose high school math over all other grades because I feel I am able to relate to them much easier. Not so long ago, I graduated high school, and I can still remember everything! Whereas middle school, and lower grades have simply slipped my mind. Students of the high school age are starting to mature more in their high school years. I want to be able to see these students grow and mature into young adults. My favorite content is Algebra in the field of mathematics, so this also places me into a high school.

I am a clipboard. A clipboard means I need guidance and structure. I learn the best when things are well organized and have clear instructions. My learning style will greatly affect my teaching style. I plan to run a very organized classroom. I will have clear expectations, and I will provide a syllabus that clearly describes assignments, and grading processes. I feel my learning style will better prepare me as a teacher because most high school students need a lot of organization and a clear understanding of what they are to do. If I happened to be a microscope learner, who likes open ended task with a chance to explore and take things to an extreme; I would fear for my students. I think I would lose them in topics, and confuse them more than high school math students are already.

I have many expectations for myself as a teacher. The most important one is for students to always enjoy the company of one another and have fun. A very close second is that there are times to talk and have fun and then there are times to focus and learn. By balancing these things, I see the most room for improvement within the class room. If students are forced to sit still and be quiet for grueling eighty minute periods, they are likely to zone out, misbehave, and ultimately not learn. I expect my students to be prepared for class, participate in class discussions, and most importantly take interest in their learning. I know it’s nearly impossible to get high school math students interested in math, but I will strive to change that. I do expect students to spend out of class time doing homework and spending time with me, or in a math clinic to get further help if they misunderstand any homework, or simply just want extra help to prepare for a test. A few fears I have are, that I do not know all of my content yet. I do not believe that any teacher ever will be able to know everything. I am worried that I will have a few troubled students that I will not be able to get through to because of the outside factors of their lives, but fearing, and being worried is a huge waste of time. I want to accept the challenges of teaching and do everything I can to be the best possible teacher I can be.

In this course, I expect to learn how to plan lessons, control a classroom, and hopefully learn how to make a well planned lesson with multiple teaching angles. I expect to learn all of the technology I need to, in order to be a proficient teacher. Technology can enhance any lesson. I would hate to be in a class where I could not use all of my resources. I hope to get my "teaching eyes" because I want to be able to read a students next move before they act upon it. They say teachers see and know everything.

All in all being a successful teacher is a great goal of mine. To me, teachers should have their own teaching style, and have opportunities to be original. I want to become a teacher so I can make a difference in the lives of students. Math has always been on of my strong points in school, which has inspired me to become one myself. Like myself, I expect my students to be the best they can be. Fears are natural I feel, and I have plenty of them; however, they will never defeat me. I hope to better my teaching knowledge with this course, and to take big steps to becoming a teacher. In closure, this experience will fuel me till then end, and soon enough I will be the one in the front of the class teaching and I can not wait!